

**STAFF MEETING MINUTES  
LANCASTER COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
COUNTY-CITY BUILDING  
ROOM 113  
THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 4, 2003  
8:15 A.M.**

Commissioners Present: Bernie Heier, Chair  
Ray Stevens, Vice Chair  
Larry Hudkins  
Bob Workman  
Deb Schorr

Others Present: Gwen Thorpe, Deputy Chief Administrative Officer  
Dave Johnson, Deputy County Attorney  
Bruce Medcalf, County Clerk  
Trish Owen, Chief Deputy County Clerk  
Ann Taylor, County Clerk's Office

The Chair opened the meeting at 8:18 a.m.

**AGENDA ITEM**

**1 APPROVAL OF STAFF MEETING MINUTES OF THURSDAY, AUGUST 28, 2003**

**MOTION:** Stevens moved and Hudkins seconded approval of the Staff Meeting minutes of August 28, 2003. Hudkins, Heier and Stevens voted aye. Workman abstained from voting. Schorr was absent from voting. Motion carried.

**2 ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA**

- A. Report on Community Corrections Director's Activities
- B. Contract for Coordinator of Adult Offender Services
- C. Furniture for New Joint City Council/County Board Receptionist
- D. Survey of County Officials Requested by the Nebraska Legislature's Government, Military and Veterans Affairs Committee
- E. Peoples' Health Center Dedication
- F. Families First & Foremost (F<sup>3</sup>) Grant Program and Integrated Care Coordination Unit (ICCU) Contract
- G. Attendance at Region V Meeting on September 8, 2003

**MOTION:** Hudkins moved and Workman seconded approval of the additions to the agenda. Hudkins, Workman, Stevens and Heier voted aye. Schorr was absent from voting. Motion carried.

### **3 COMMISSIONER MEETING REPORTS**

A. Ecological Advisory Committee - Heier

Heier said discussion focused on saline wetlands.

B. Lincoln Partnership for Economic Development (LPED) Investors - Heier

Heier said the Economic Development Strategic Plan and Executive Summary were presented.

Schorr arrived at 8:27 a.m.

C. Railroad Transportation Safety District (RTSD) - Hudkins, Stevens, Schorr

Hudkins said there was a decision to continue study of the Southwest 40<sup>th</sup> Street overpass.

Hudkins said the Railroad Transportation Safety District (RTSD) must pay sales tax on its projects and said Roger Figard, City Engineer, will talk to the Chair of the Nebraska Legislature's Revenue Committee to see whether the "climate" is right to introduce legislation to exempt the RTSD from the tax.

### **ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA**

A. Report on Community Corrections Director's Activities

Gwen Thorpe, Deputy Chief Administrative Officer, said the Community Corrections Director is scheduled to provide mental health training to law enforcement.

B. Contract for Coordinator of Adult Offender Services

Thorpe said Warren Cook, Coordinator of Adult Offender Services, is concerned that his work may not be completed upon expiration of his contract. She said the Board should notify Cook if that is a problem.

C. Furniture for New Joint City Council/County Board Receptionist

Thorpe said furniture will be installed on September 24, 2003.

Hudkins requested a report on the phone system.

D. Survey of County Officials Requested by the Nebraska Legislature's Government, Military and Veterans Affairs Committee

Thorpe asked the Board to review the completed survey and notify her of any changes (Exhibit A).

E. Peoples' Health Center Dedication

Hudkins and Schorr attended the dedication ceremony on September 3, 2003. A community open house will be held September 27, 2003.

**4 SELF-INSURED RETENTION FOR WORKERS COMPENSATION** - Sue Eckley, Workers' Compensation & Risk Management Manager; Doug Cyr, Deputy County Attorney; Tom Champoux, UNICO Group, Inc.

Tom Champoux, UNICO Group, Inc., reviewed a quote from Midwest Employers Casualty Company for excess workers compensation insurance (Exhibit B), noting the premium for coverage at the current level (employer's liability retention of \$300,000) will increase from \$51,684 to \$107,705. He noted that Lancaster County's claims have never reached the self-insured retention level.

Sue Eckley, Workers' Compensation & Risk Management Manager, said an additional quote is anticipated from Wexford Insurance.

Doug Cyr, Deputy County Attorney, recommended that the County go with coverage at the \$500,000 employer's liability retention level.

In response to a question from Hudkins, Champoux said a stop loss aggregate is not currently in place. He said that option is available, but is extremely expensive.

The Board asked Champoux to investigate that option further.

**5 911 SURCHARGE** - Dave Johnson, Deputy County Attorney; Dana Roper, City Attorney; Mark Bowen, Mayor's Chief of Staff

Dana Roper, City Attorney, said the City has passed a resolution to increase its 911 surcharge for telephone land lines from \$0.50 to \$0.75, effective January 1, 2004.

Mark Bowen, Mayor's Chief of Staff, suggested comparable action on the part of the County, explaining funds will go to 911/Communications Center enhancements.

Dave Johnson, Deputy County Attorney, said the County currently has a \$0.50 surcharge in place, but said efforts to locate the resolution enacting the surcharge have been unsuccessful.

The Board authorized the County Attorney's Office to pursue the matter further.

**6 EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES (EMS), INC. OVERSIGHT BOARD** - Joan Anderson, Lancaster County Medical Society (LCMS) Medical Director; Mary Jo Gillespie, LCMS Assistant Medical Director; Jay Wilger, EMS, Inc.

Joan Anderson, Lancaster County Medical Society (LCMS) Medical Director, gave an overview of Proposed Lincoln EMS Medical Oversight (Exhibit C). She said education is a key component of oversight and said LCMS will partner with the hospitals to meet those needs.

Thorpe said the rural fire districts would benefit from education on Health Insurance Portability & Accountability Act (HIPAA) requirements.

**ADDITIONS TO AGENDA**

F. Families First & Foremost (F<sup>3</sup>) Grant Program and Integrated Care Coordination Unit (ICCU) Contract

Heier said Ron Ross, Nebraska Department of Health & Human Services (HHS) Director, has indicated plans to move the Families First & Foremost (F<sup>3</sup>) Grant Program and the Integrated Care Coordination Unit (ICCU) contract to Region V once a new director is named.

Schorr expressed concern regarding loss of funding for wraparound services.

Stevens noted that the County has signed contracts with a number of human service agencies to provide those services.

Board consensus was to schedule further discussion with Ross and Sheryl Schrepf, F<sup>3</sup> Director.

G. Attendance at Region V Meeting on September 8, 2003

Schorr will attend the meeting in Heier's place.

**7 HEALTH INSURANCE RENEWAL WITH UNITED HEALTHCARE -**  
Daryl Bell and Ron Cornwell, Milliman USA; Bill Kostner, City Risk  
Manager; Bill Thoreson, Benefits Specialist; Melodie Montiel, Personnel  
Department; Diane Carlson, Deputy County Attorney

Daryl Bell and Ron Cornwell, Milliman USA, presented Lancaster County Dental and Medical Renewal: Preliminary Assessment (Exhibit D), noting renewal options and design changes.

The Board requested further negotiation of the medical plan design changes and pricing of two party (employee/spouse) coverage.

Bill Kostner, City Risk Manager, asked the Board to consider increasing the amount employees can set aside in their Flexible Employee Benefit Account (FEBA) from \$3,500 to \$4,500.

Bill Thoreson, Benefits Specialist, said employees will have greater flexibility to purchase medical and therapeutical items with FEBA funds, due to a recent ruling by the Internal Revenue Service (IRS). Additional information will be forthcoming.

**8 COUNTY FINAL PLAT NO. 03025, PRAIRIE CREEK ESTATES, 148<sup>TH</sup>  
& VAN DORN STREET - Mike DeKalb, Planning Department**

Mike DeKalb, Planning Department, gave an overview of County Final Plat No. 03025, Prairie Creek Estates, a final plat consisting of eight single family acreage lots and three outlots on property located at 148<sup>th</sup> & Van Dorn Street (Exhibit E). He noted there is a farmstead split-off and said an additional lot is permitted through a bonus for retaining the floodplain, wetlands and dam.

**9 SOFTWARE AGREEMENT WITH CITY REGARDING FINANCIAL  
SYSTEM - Dave Kroeker, Budget and Fiscal Officer; Doug Thomas,  
Information Services Director; Jim Walkenhorst, Information Services; Tim  
Genuchi, Accounting Operations Manager for the County Clerk's Office**

Dave Kroeker, Budget and Fiscal Officer, said AMS has notified the County that maintenance on the financial system will be dropped, effective July 1, 2005. AMS offered to migrate the County to its new product, ADVANTAGE 3 (Exhibit F).

Kroeker distributed a projection of implementation and ongoing operational costs to move to JD Edwards' One World System (see Exhibit F). He said the City has an earlier version of this system and is willing to share licenses if the County assists with maintenance costs. Cost savings of \$650,000 over a ten year period are projected.

Doug Thomas, Information Services Director, noted that JD Edwards was recently bought out by PeopleSoft and said there needs to be verification that JD Edwards isn't a "dead product" with the merger. He said there have also been attempts by Oracle to buyout PeopleSoft and said it should become clear in the next few months how everything will "shake out". In the meantime, JD Edwards has offered to do some preliminary work at no cost to the County.

**10 CONTRACT ISSUES WITH NEBRASKA DEPARTMENT OF ROADS -**  
Dave Johnson, Deputy County Attorney; Don Thomas, County Engineer;  
Virgil Dearmont, County Engineering

Dave Johnson, Deputy County Attorney, explained that the Nebraska Department of Roads lets bids for bridge contracts but is not a party to the contracts. Liability insurance clauses in those contracts are less stringent than the County's and the State was asked to include the County's standard independent contractor, severability, hold harmless and insurance clauses. He said the Contract Administrator for the Department of Roads is reluctant to make those changes.

Don Thomas, County Engineer, said the State will pull two of the County's bridge projects out of the bid letting if the matter is not resolved (one has a deadline of September 12, 2003).

The Chair agreed to contract Governor Johanns in an effort to resolve the matter.

**11 STATE VETERANS COUNCIL PETITION DRIVE (GAMBLING IN BARS) -** Jim Cada, Nebraska Veterans Council

Jim Cada, Nebraska Veterans Council, reported on a petition drive to amend the Nebraska Constitution to allow video lottery/slots in bars and restaurants with an on-sale liquor license (Exhibit G).

**12 ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER REPORT**

A. Highway 77 Update

Thorpe said public hearings on closure of Old Cheney Road at Highway 77 have not been scheduled as yet.

B. Salaries for Bailiffs and Child Support Referee

Thorpe distributed salary information for the bailiffs and the child support referee (Exhibit H).

Board consensus was to proceed with a 3% across the board increase.

Stevens exited the meeting at 11:40 a.m.

- C. Letter from Terry Genrich, Parks & Recreation Natural Resources Manager, Regarding Open Space and Greenways Plan (Meeting on September 23, 2003)

**MOTION:** Workman moved and Hudkins seconded to authorize Kerry Eagan, Chief Administrative Officer, to attend the meeting. Hudkins, Schorr, Heier and Workman voted aye. Stevens was absent from voting. Motion carried.

Stevens returned to the meeting at 11:42 a.m.

- D. Chamber of Commerce Street Map

The Board declined an offer to promote the County in the Lincoln Chamber of Commerce's street map and resource guide (Exhibit I).

- E. Floodplain Regulations

Thorpe asked whether the Board is interested in developing County Floodplain Standards similar to those of the City's.

The Board indicated that it is not.

### 13 ADJOURNMENT

**MOTION:** Hudkins moved and Stevens seconded to adjourn the meeting at 11:49 a.m. Hudkins, Schorr, Heier, Workman and Stevens voted aye. Motion carried.

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Bruce Medcalf  
Lancaster County Clerk